

## **MINUTES**

### **INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

July 29, 2009  
Department of Education  
James Whitcomb Riley Conference Room  
151 West Ohio Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

The meeting of the Indiana State Board of Education convened at 9:04 a.m. Board members Dr. Tony Bennett, Sarah O'Brien, Jo Blacketer, Dr. Gwendolyn Griffith-Adell, Daniel Elsener, Steve Gabet, David Shane, Vicki Snyder, and James Edwards were present. Board members Neil Pickett and Mike Pettibone were not present.

#### **I. Call to Order**

Dr. Bennett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **II. Approval of the Minutes**

Ms. Blacketer moved for approval of the minutes. Mr. Gabet seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **III. Statement of the Chair**

Dr. Bennett said he recently attended the Council of Chief State School Officers Summer Institute that focused on Race to the Top. Requirements were discussed at great length, as well as how states are responding and positioning themselves for these funds. Dr. Bennett emphasized that Indiana is competing for the ability to move our students ahead, not just competing for the money. Dr. Bennett also discussed a press conference he attended at the US Department of Education where President Obama and Arnie Duncan, Secretary of Education, outlined the proposed guidelines for competing for Race to the Top. Indiana was cited as a state that is taking the proper steps, specifically in the area of removing caps on charter schools. Dr. Bennett said he is very encouraged about Indiana's positioning in the four requirements (competitive based) for Race to the Top stimulus funds that include:

- Assessment diagnostic tools.
- Data systems.
- Student information.
- Teacher improvement and education.

#### **IV. Spotlight on Learning**

Todd Huston, Chief of Staff, said the Spotlight on Learning will be presented by David Harris, CEO, The Mind Trust. Mr. Harris discussed the Alternative High School Initiative and the entrepreneurial programs of The Mind Trust. Mr. Harris explained how The Mind Trust came about and two specific strategies they have to fulfill their mission.

Mr. Harris discussed the Education Entrepreneur Fellowship, which provides ambitious entrepreneurs with an opportunity to develop fresh ideas and launch initiatives to transform public education, particularly in underserved communities. In 2008, The Mind Trust received 488 applications from people in 37 states and six countries. Four fellows were selected: Dr. Michael Bitz, Dr. Celine Coggins, Ms. Abigail Falik, and Mr. Earl Martin Phalen.

The Mind Trust also created the Venture Fund to recruit to Indianapolis the nation's most successful entrepreneurial education initiatives. To date, The Mind Trust has made Venture Fund investments totaling \$3,059,326 in the following organizations:

- Teach For America.
- College Summit.
- The New Teacher project.
- Diploma Plus.

Mr. Harris also said five new schools across four separate Indianapolis school districts opened last fall using the Diploma Plus model, which targets overage, under credited students.

#### **V. Board Member Comments**

Mrs. Blacketor said she recently visited schools in India and said the schools were in cold dark rooms and if they had computers, they ran on batteries. Mrs. Blacketor said it was a revelation to her as to how rich the United States are with the resources that we have available.

#### **VI. Adjudications and Hearings**

**VII. Public Comments**

**VIII. Discussion**

Pat Mapes, Director of Education and Licensing Development discussed the improvement of customer services. In the past it was taking six weeks to process teacher's license and get the license back to the applicant. The complete process was reviewed, employees were cross trained and now the turnaround time is 10 days. Since January 1 through July 17, the licensing division has processed 24,413 licenses and the help desk has taken in 4,457 phone calls. Mr. Mapes said they will develop a data base that will allow administrators to go online and look at subject areas and what licenses a person would need to teach those subjects. This initiative will be done this fall.

Board members were given an update on the stimulus plan by Lance Rhodes, Chief Financial Officer. Mr. Rhodes discussed the criteria for Race to the Top funds and said this is the largest single competitive grant offered by the federal government. These funds will award some states for past performances and will create incentives for performances into the future. For states that are approved, a portion of the funds will be distributed in the fall of 2009 and the second distribution will be spring 2010.

Mrs. Blacketor asked that the record show her concerns regarding several schools in her region and their use of Title I funds. Mrs. Blacketor said she is not questioning how some schools are using this money, but has received several inquiries. Various schools are using Title I money for curriculum directors; some schools are taking their summer remediation dollars to set up a New Tech High; and some Title I dollars are being used for teacher academies during the day which then requires substitute teachers in the classrooms. Mr. Huston and Mr. Rhodes addressed these issues and both concurred that those types of expenditures are appropriate, but further clarification should come from Lee Ann Kwiatkowski, Director of Differentiated Learners.

Mr. Huston gave an update on legislative issues and said the General Assembly officially adjourned on April 29. Mr. Huston discussed House Bill 1462.

Dr. Bennett gave an update on strategic planning, which is an ongoing issue. Dr. Bennett said we have heard from Mr. Mapes and will soon hear from Wes Bruce about great things and the work going on in their divisions. Dr. Bennett said every move we make in the Department of Education is geared towards making a difference in the lives of children, so that we reach those 90-25-90 numbers.

Dr. Bennett also discussed the topic of dual credit that came up at the Education Roundtable meeting on July 28. Dr. Bennett said the Department needs to develop a system in Indiana where dual credit is a transparent, easy to understand process for parents, teachers, students, and guidance counselors. Our students will benefit. Dr. Bennett also said a resolution was passed at the Education Round table meeting asking the Department of Education and the State Board to work with the Commission for Higher Education to develop the framework for dual credit.

Dr. Bennett also discussed regulations that are being lifted for schools. Work continues that will provide more flexibility at the local level. Dr. Bennett said keeping score is the rule of the day in the Indiana Department of Education. A scorecard is being kept on student achievement and student performance, and we will make sure Indiana schools are performing at the highest quality.

Dr. Bennett thanked Mr. Rhodes, and said many schools have let him know about the speed and efficiency with which the department has handled the stimulus package.

Wes Bruce, Chief Assessment Officer, gave an update on assessment and accountability issues. Mr. Bruce discussed the ISTEP cut score setting process that took place on July 14-17, 2009. One hundred sixty-five teachers were involved. An expert panel reviewed that process and the teacher recommendations and provided observations and guidance. The cut score recommendations were presented to the Education Roundtable for its approval on July 28. As required by law, the Roundtable resolution on the cut scores is being presented today for State Board adoption.

Mr. Bruce discussed the graduation qualifying examination (GQE) and said September and March GQE retest opportunities will continue to be available for students in the classes of 2010 and 2011 in both of the next two school years.

Mr. Bruce also said training is being scheduled for all of the schools who are adding the Wireless Generation and Acuity diagnostic tools for the 2009-2010 school year.

Mr. Bruce discussed end of course tests and said an action item for Board approval will be to establish the test windows for the "new" GQE. Algebra I and English 10 will replace the current mathematics and English/language arts portions of the GQE for the classes of 2012 and later. Mr. Bruce said other end of course assessments will also be offered in some of these windows.

Dr. Carol D'Amico gave an update on adult education. Dr. D'Amico discussed a report by the Indiana Chamber of Commerce stating that Indiana has 350,000 adults that need basic skills to become competitive in the workforce. Mr. Edwards commented that Indiana has over 524,000 people that do not have a high school diploma or a GED.

Dr. D'Amico said Indiana has a capacity issue in that we do not have the ability to serve all the adults in this state that need that kind of education to be successful in the work place. We will collaborate with Workforce Development in the delivery of programs for these adults. Part of this joint venture will be the development of one common assessment test to determine the grade level at which adults are functioning. We can then tailor learning programs to get them up to the level where they can successfully participate in Ivy Tech programs. Dr. D'Amico said Workforce Development will bring in more resources, so it will not just fall on school corporations to address this huge need.

Dr. D'Amico said regional plans will be developed and the system will be realigned. The following indicators will be used:

- Did the adults get employment as a result of their participation in adult education programs?
- Did they successfully enter into a post secondary education?
- Did they retain their employment and wage rate and actually move up the ladder?
- Did they successfully get a good score on the assessment?

Dr. D'Amico said adult education programs in the past have been left up to local schools, and they do not have the funding for these programs.

Dr. D'Amico also said an alternative delivery system will be offered, including online use.

Board members discussed the issue that businesses are no longer paying attention to a "GED." The emphasis is now on getting a high school diploma.

#### **IX. Consent Agenda Items**

- A. Dr. Jerry Haffner, Adult Education Specialist, presented a request for approval of Adult Education 2009-2010 summer/fall term allocations.  
[Agenda item X, A]

- B. Mr. Huston presented a request for approval of Common School Fund Advancements for Charter Schools. [Agenda item X, B]
- C. Mr. Huston presented a request for approval of Prime Time Instructional Assistants. [Agenda item X, F]

Mr. Shane moved for approval of the consent agenda items. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (Mrs. Blacketor abstained as to the Common School Fund Advancements for Charter Schools.)

**X. Action**

- A. Mr. Bruce presented a request for approval of passing scores for ISTEP+ tests.

Mr. Elsener moved for approval. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- B. Mr. Bruce presented a request for approval of testing dates for End of Course Assessments.

Mr. Shane moved for approval. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- C. Matt Fleck, Coordinator of High School Programs, presented a request for approval of designation of Principles of Biomedical Sciences as a Core 40 science course.

Mr. Shane moved for approval. Mrs. Blacketor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**XI. Board Operations**

Mrs. Blacketor said she was unable to attend the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Governmental Affairs Committee meeting in June. However, she has been asked to serve as president of that committee. It was the consensus of the Board to approve this request.

Mr. Huston said the September 2 State Board meeting will start at 1 p.m. The Education Roundtable meeting will be held at 9 a.m. and Board members are encouraged to attend that meeting.

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Mr. Gabet moved for adjournment. Mrs. Blacketor seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.





